

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:230

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2004

BOOK ON MAHATMA GANDHI

Chakraborty Shri Ajay;Mehta Shri Bhubneshwar Prasad

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the collected works of Mahatma Gandhi published by the Publications Division under this Ministry has been revised and new version published in print and C.D. Rom in 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there are complaints that the Revised Version is full of errors, omissions and deletions and the 'Sabarmati Ashram Preservation and Memorial Trust' has asked for the cancellation of the revised version and the reinstatement of the original version with archival status; and

(d) if so, the details and the Government's reaction thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND CULTURE (SHRI S JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 230 TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.12.2004

(a) & (b): The project of the Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi (CWMG) was initiated in 1956 and publication of its English version was completed in 1994 with the publication of 100 volumes, as under:

? Collected Works in chronological order (Volume Nos.1-90)
? Supplementary volumes (Volume Nos. 91-97)
? Subject Index (Volume No. 98)
? Name Index (Volume No. 99)
? Prefaces (Volume No. 100)

In Hindi version, the publication of the corresponding 97 volumes of the text was completed in 2000.

Given the prestigious nature of this project, the Government of India appointed an Advisory board in 1956, to facilitate the compilation of the series. The Advisory Board consisted of the following:

1. Late Shri Morarji Desai Chairman
2. Shri Ramlal Parikh Member
3. Shri Jitendra Desai Member
4. Joint Secretary in the Ministry in-charge of
Publications Division Member
5. Director, Publications Division Member
6. Chief Editor, CWMG Ex-officio Secretary

S/Shri Kaka Saheb Kalelkar, Devdas Gandhi, Pyarelal, Maganbhai P. Desai, Ramdhari Sinha 'Dinkar', G Ramchandran, Shantilal H Shah, Jivanji Desai, Thakorebhai Desai, P M Lad, Shriman Narayan and R R Diwakar were also members from time to time. The last meeting of the Advisory Board was held on 27.12.1978. In February 1980 the Chairman of the Advisory Board informed the Chief Editor, CWMG that as the work of CWMG was nearing completion and there was no policy matter for the consideration of and submission to the Advisory Board, it was not necessary to convene any meeting of the Advisory Board.

At the time of the publication of the 100th volume of the CWMG in 1994, Shri R P Dhasmana was the Chief Editor. Earlier the following persons headed the project of CWMG as Chief Editors: Dr Bharatan Kumarappa, Jairamdas Doulatram and Prof. K Swaminathan.

On October 2, 1999, Publications Division also released a CD-Rom on Mahatma Gandhi which contained an Electronic book, consisting of the Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi arranged in a chronological order. The e-book has more than 50,000 pages with comprehensive indexing. The highlight of this CD is an interactive multimedia component comprising of 30 minutes of film footage, over 550 photographs and 15 minutes of Gandhiji's voice.

Simultaneously, the Publications Division also brought out a revised edition of the Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi (CWMG). This was a series arranged in a chronological order along the lines of CD-Rom on Mahatma Gandhi.

(c): Yes, Sir. A number of complaints have been received regarding large volume of errors, omissions and deletions from organizations and individuals, such as Sabarmati Ashram Preservation and Memorial Trust, Ahmedabad, Servants of the People Society, New Delhi, Gandhi Peace Foundation, New Delhi, Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, New Delhi, Gujarat Vidyapith, Ahmedabad, the Albert Einstein Institution, U.S.A., Shri La. Su. Rengarajan, Shri Tridip Suhrud, Shri Chunibhai Vaidya, Shri Hasmukh Shah, and Ms. Dina Patel. All of them have sought reinstatement of the original series and scrapping of new series including the CDs based on the new series.

(d): The complaints about errors and omissions have been found true. Enquiries so far made do not show the basis on which the new series were launched in the first place. Nor do the enquiries show the names of scholars chosen by the Government for the purpose. After the complaints were received, efforts were initiated in November, 2003 to take corrective actions both in regard to errors and omissions. Although this process of correction has been initiated, complaints from the authoritative sources are continuing with the demand that the new series have so many defects as to make any remedy impossible. The situation resulting from this problem is under consideration of the Government.